

January 29, 2015

**BUTTONWOOD POND
ANNUAL MEETING & LAKE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Annual Meeting – 2015

- Agenda

Lake Management Plan

- General Provisions & Scope of Services
- Community-Based Activities & Events
- Current Fiscal Year: Planned Treatments, Funding & Recommendations
- Next Fiscal Year: Projected Treatments & Funding
- Exhibits – Agenda & Notes Prior Year, Budget & Financial Summary, Historic Reports/Data

BUTTONWOOD POND

ANNUAL MEETING

Date, Time & Location	:	January 29, 2015, 2:30 p.m., 200 W. County Home Rd – LMP office
Community Liaisons	:	James Grodin and Susan Shapiro
Liaisons Present	:	James Grodin
Seminole County	:	Sarah Benoit-Santiago, Thomas Calhoun, Gloria Eby, and Carol Watral
Guests	:	

Topics carried forward from prior fiscal year activity

- As this is the first year for this MSBU, there is no prior fiscal year MSBU activity.
- Buttonwood Pond Lake Aquatic Weed Control and Lake Management MSBU was established on August 26, 2014. As of October 1, 2014, funding for the aquatic weed control services will be through the established MSBU.
- Property owners should be encouraged to communicate comments/concerns through the liaison group, who will provide consolidated request/comments to the MSBU Project Manager (Carol Watral).

General Topics & Updates

- Pricing available via state contract established with herbicide service provider
- Plans for current fiscal year - scheduled aquatic plant control monthly treatments along shoreline areas or as authorized by County staff
- Torpedo grass expectations
- Fluctuating water elevation and shoreline erosion
- Demonstration planting site - Spring 2015
- Community Shoreline Restoration Event scheduled for September 2015
- Projections for next fiscal year
- General recommendations for community consideration

Meeting Notes:

- The link to access important information and updates on the Buttonwood Pond MSBU website is: <http://www.seminolecountyfl.gov/fs/msbu/msbudistrict2.aspx>
- Treatment access issue has resulted in treatment being completed via backpacking; if large lake or submersed treatment is required, access via airboat will be required
- Results of recent treatments were discussed
- Liaison agreed to advise LMP of a community-selected site for the demonstration planting site
- September 2015 Restoration event:
 - LMP will need to know recruited sites at least two months before the event
 - Before the event, on-site review/education is offered with County Consultant Dean Barber at no charge to property owner(s)
 - LMP will need to know the kick-off location for approximately 50 volunteers
- LMP is considering installing a gauge to monitor water depth fluctuations; James Grodin volunteered his property for the location of the gauge
- Progress of the County fertilizer ordinance was discussed

BUTTONWOOD POND LAKE MANAGEMENT PLAN

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Scope of Public Aquatic Weed/Plant Control [AWC] Services

The scope of public aquatic weed control [AWC] services funded by non-ad-valorem assessment includes those services associated with managing aquatic plant communities as deemed beneficial and/or critical to restoring, developing and/or maintaining conditions that enhance the water quality and over-all health of the waterbody; with emphasis on providing public services for public purposes which by definition of public are limited to the waterbody and respective shoreline when/where noxious and/or invasive exotic vegetation could/would threaten or impede the waterbody.

Governing documents

- Seminole County Ordinance 2014-15

Methods for Aquatic Weed Control as authorized via County Ordinance/Resolution

- Chemical (herbicides)
- Biological (sterile triploid grass carp fish [TGC])
- Mechanical (harvesting, cutting, sonic, etc.)

Targeted Invasive/Exotic Aquatic Vegetation

- Water hyacinth, torpedo grass, paragrass, cattail, primrose willow, alligator weed, Cuban bulrush, exotic water lily, wild taro, water fern, algae, spatterdock, southern naiad, coontail, and willow (hydrilla is excluded).

Frequency of AWC Treatment

AWC services are performed at the direction of the Seminole County LMP as per the Buttonwood Pond Management Plan reviewed at the annual planning session with the expectation that the Seminole County LMP may alter anticipated treatments as merited per changing/evolving conditions noted during site inspections.

Herbicide Treatments - Service Provider

- As determined by Seminole County

Funding

Assessment rate may vary annually based on financial demands of changing conditions, such as cost of herbicide treatments, frequency of treatments, and other factors impacting assessment calculations. The governing ordinance does not include assessment restrictions specific to annual adjustment amounts and/or assessment cap.

Lake Liaisons

Designated property owners (or their designated representatives) provide community representation at annual planning sessions with the County and serve voluntarily as the key point of contact for community inquiries and concerns. The current liaisons for Buttonwood Pond are: James Grodin (jsgrodin@gmail.com 407-682-1396) and Susan Shapiro (susanishapiro@aol.com 407-234-8099).

BUTTONWOOD POND

COMMUNITY-BASED ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

LMP recommends/encourages homeowners to coordinate a resident-based volunteer event involving native plantings creating a beneficial shoreline for Buttonwood Pond. It is especially important that as aquatic invasive plants (such as torpedo grass) are being treated, native aquatic plants should be established within these areas. This also provides habitat for fish and wildlife, helps impede invasive exotics from re-establishing and reduces sedimentation into the lake due to erosion of the shoreline. All of these best lake management practices are essential to providing a more environmentally stable lake for generations to come. The key to success in lake management projects is dependent on strong participation of the Buttonwood Pond community.

Continued recommendations for community initiatives are as follows:

- 1) Shoreline re-vegetation with native emergent plants (by the lakefront community and potentially volunteers),
- 2) Establishing a formal Lake Association holding at least one annual meeting with topics relevant to Buttonwood Pond,
- 3) Continue to increase educational outreach programs i.e. Shoreline Restoration Workshops (planting days), Florida Yards and Neighborhoods (FYN), Lake Management Video mail-outs, and reduction of residential pollution (use phosphorous free and slow-release nitrogen based fertilizers only). Contact Seminole County LMP, 665-2439, for more information and assistance,
- 4) Provide content for the Seminole County Water Atlas Lake Management Webpage for Buttonwood Pond (such as newsletters and photos).

Important to Note: When herbicides are applied along the shoreline to invasive plants (such as torpedo grass), overspray onto adjacent desirable vegetation may occur. In order to avoid damage to desired vegetation, manual (by hand) removal (by property owner) of the undesirable species from among the desirable species is advised. If the invasive plants are removed by this method, spraying the area can be reduced, thereby offering greater protection to the desirable species. The physical removal of /dead/decaying aquatic plant material will reduce the volume of decomposing vegetation on the lake bottom (muck layer) and will increase the success of the efforts to limit the re-growth of the invasive plants.

BUTTONWOOD POND

COUNTY SERVICES – Lake Management & Supplemental Programs

While the MSBU assessment includes a nominal charge for administering the MSBU, the amount charged does not cover all the expenses incurred by the County on behalf of the waterfront property owners. Buttonwood Pond is monitored by LMP to assess the aquatic plant growth. LMP provides continued evaluation of the aquatic plant species and provides community updates on the status of all treatments and waterbody assessments. In addition, LMP offers free aquatic plant material (as available) for sponsored restoration events and local community volunteers coordinated through the county's Seminole Education and Restoration Volunteer (SERV) Program. Many of the services provided by the LMP are made available to support community riparian stewardship without additional charges being assigned to the MSBU budget.

Current Fiscal Year – Planned Treatment & Funding

Primary Aquatic Plant Management Expectations

Invasive aquatic growth in Buttonwood Pond has likelihood to continue, however, the timing and re-growth is affected by multiple natural and environmental factors that cannot be controlled or predicted with certainty. While extensive growth is possible at any point in time, it is anticipated that routine spot treatments with herbicides will be sufficient to manage re-growth during the current fiscal year. The anticipation of spot treatments for the current fiscal year takes into consideration the historic trend of management required at Buttonwood Pond, as well as current conditions observed at the lake. As with any lake with a history of invasive aquatic growth, long-term planning to include financial preparation for whole lake treatment is advised. LMP will continue to closely monitor Buttonwood Pond.

Funding Expectations

Refer to current fiscal year budget data provided in Exhibit B.

BUTTONWOOD POND

Next Fiscal Year – Projected Treatment & Funding

Primary Aquatic Plant Management Expectations

Primary expectations are as follows:

- 1) Continued close monitoring of aquatic growth,
- 2) Conduct spot treatments as required,
- 3) Continued treatment of the invasive aquatic plants – herbicides,
- 4) Monitor/control/replant managed areas,
- 5) Consider shoreline re-vegetation sites (lakefront community).

Funding Expectations

Refer to next fiscal year budget data provided in Exhibit B.

Exhibits

A – Agenda & Notes from Prior Year Planning Session

B - Budget/Financial Summaries

C - Historic Reports/Data

Exhibit A - Notes from Prior Year Planning Session

PRIOR YEAR NOTES NOT APPLICABLE....FIRST YEAR OF THIS MSBU

Exhibit B - Budget/Financial Overview

MSBU: **BUTTONWOOD POND (Aquatic Weed Control)**

Date: **January 29, 2015**

Tax Year		FIRST YEAR	
		2014	2015
Assessment		\$265.00	\$275.00
Fiscal Year		FY1415	FY1516
REVENUE		Working Budget	Projected Budget
Beginning Fund Balance	\$	-	\$ 467
Assessments	\$	3,562	\$ 3,562
Other	\$	-	
MSBU Program Fund Advance	\$	1,000	
TOTAL	\$	4,562	\$ 4,028
Cost Sharing			
TOTAL	\$	4,562	\$ 4,028
Lake Management Program			
TOTAL	\$	4,562	\$ 4,028
EXPENDITURE		Working Budget	Projected Budget
County Administrative Fee	\$	900	\$ 900
Fund Advance Repayment	\$	-	\$ 430
Application Fee Processing	\$	550	
Contracted Services	\$	2,645	\$ 2,675
1	\$	-	\$ -
2	\$	-	\$ -
3	\$	-	\$ -
4	\$	-	\$ -
5	\$	-	\$ -
Contingency Reserve	\$	467	\$ 23
TOTAL	\$	4,562	\$ 4,028
Cost Sharing	\$	-	\$ -
TOTAL	\$	4,562	\$ 4,028
Lake Management Program	\$	-	\$ -
TOTAL	\$	4,562	\$ 4,028
Fund Advance BB	\$	1,000	\$ 1,000
Payment	\$	-	\$ 400
Fund Advance EB	\$	1,000	\$ 600

Exhibit C - Historic Reports/Data

Additional information for Buttonwood Pond can be found on the County's Water Atlas website after it is added to the website.